IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 10, amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 and ending at line 7, as follows:

A method and apparatus for surrogate control of network-based electronic commerce or retail transactions are provided in which a World Wide Web ("web") site is provided by a surrogate system that allows anyone not having or not eligible for a credit card, like teenagers and young adults, to shop at online merchant electronics storefronts such as the web sites for Amazon or Barnes and Noble ~~amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com~~ when provided with an account. The account can be funded personally or by another. Advantages of this method and apparatus are numerous.

Page 36, amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 and ending at page 37, line 2, as follows;

Figures 28-44 illustrate a shopping session using the surrogate system of an embodiment. Figure 28 is a page 2800 of an embodiment including an alphabetical list 2802 of online merchants. The merchant names are enabled so that selection of a name takes the user to the corresponding merchant online shopping site or web pages. In this example, the user is selecting the ~~"shop.oonline.com"~~ icon 2804. The merchant list page 2800 displays information including the surrogate navigation bar 2806 comprising the user's username and current surrogate system account balance 2808. The merchant list page 2800 also includes an electronic link to coupons 2810.

-2-

Page 37, amend the paragraph beginning at line 3, and ending at line 14, as follows:

In response to the selection of the "~~shop.eonline.com~~" icon 2804 the user is taken to the <u>shop.eonline</u> ~~shop.eonline.com~~ web site. Figure 29 is a web page 2900 of a selected merchant site as presented through the surrogate system of an embodiment. The merchant web page 2900 is presented to users the same as it would be if they went directly to the merchant web site without using the surrogate system, except that the merchant web page 2900 is displayed along with a surrogate system navigation bar 2902, but the embodiment is not so limited. The surrogate system navigation bar provides the user with access to surrogate system functionality while navigating through and shopping from the merchant web site. This functionality includes access to other merchants, account funding, account summary information, personal information, help, log out, and a display of the users user name and account balance. Using the functions of the merchant web page the user selects and navigates to particular areas of a merchant site or merchandise 2904 in which they are interested, for example Austin Powers.

Page 46, amend the paragraph beginning at line 14, and ending at line 22, as follows:

In considering modification of a page from a merchant web server, it is noted that each Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to a merchant looks the same except for the domain name. The domain name has appended to it the domain name of the surrogate shopping proxy server. For example, if the final URL being accessed is

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-3-

"~~http://www.delias.com/shopping/product/item.html~~

http://www.USPTO.gov/shopping/product/item.html," it is rewritten to look like

"~~http://www.delias.com.proxy.surrogate.com/shopping/product/item.html~~

http://www.USPTO.gov.proxy.surrogate.com/shopping/product/item.html". Therefore,

the domain name proxy.surrogate.com is the domain name of the surrogate shopping

proxy server. Consequently, the surrogate system owns the Domain Name System

(DNS) domain proxy.surrogate.com and every subdomain under it. As such,

*.proxy.surrogate.com will return to the surrogate proxy server.

Page 49, amend the paragraph beginning at line 20, and ending at page 50, line

8, as follows:

An alternate proxy embodiment uses a single proxy server DNS name but,

instead, modifies the path of the URL to include the remote server name. For example,

a URL such as "~~http://www.amazon.com/dir/file.html~~ http://www.USPTO.gov/dir/file.html"

is modified to ~~http://proxy.surrogate.com/www/amazon.com/dir/file.htm~~

http://proxy.USPTO.gov/www/amazon.com/dir/file.html. In this case, when the proxy

server receives the request, the remote server name can be stripped from the front of

the path. A particularly powerful variation of this technique is to reverse the remote

hostname and convert the "."'s to "/"'s. Using this technique, the URL

"~~http://www.amazon.com/dir/file.html~~" http://www.USPTO.gov/dir/file.html" is written as

"~~http://proxy.surrogate.com/moc/nozama/www/dir/file.html~~

http://proxy.USPTO.gov/moc/nozama/www/dir/file.html". Since the remote server name

appears as multiple path segments, a hostname termination segment of "^" is also

inserted to simplify the process of extracting the hostname. The resulting URL is written

as "~~http://proxy.surrogate.com/moc/nozama/www/^/dir/file.html~~

http://proxy.USPTO.gov/moc/nozama/www/^/dir/file.html".

Page 51, amend the paragraphs beginning at line 9 and ending page 52, line 2,

as follows:

In performing this technique, the URLs on a proxied page are modified to include

the remote server name. On a given page, every URL can be categorized as either fully

qualified (i.e. "http://www.merchant.com.url" or "//www.merchant.com.url"), absolute (i.e.

"/path/file.html"), or relative (i.e. "path/file.html"). For fully qualified URLs, the remote

server name is extracted from the URL, reversed (again, replacing "."'s with "/"'s), and

prefixed with the server name of the proxy. For example,

"~~http://www.amzaon.com/dir/com.html~~ http://www.USPTO.gov/dir/com.html" would be

converted to "~~http://proxy.surrogate.com/moc/nozama/www^dir/file.html~~

http://proxy.USPTO.gov/moc/nozama/www^dir/file.html". If the URL refers to binary

content such as graphical images, the URL is left unmodified so it will bypass the proxy.

If the URL is absolute, the remote server name is assumed to be the remote

server the page came from unless the page contains a <base href=""> tag which can

specify an alternate default remote server. Once the remote server is established, the

absolute URL is converted to a fully qualified URL by prefixing the combination of the

proxy server name and the reversed remote server name. For example, "dir/file.html" in

a page loaded from "~~http://www.amazon.com/...~~ http://www.USPTO.gov/..." would be

converted to "~~http://proxy.surrogate.com/moc/nozama/www/^dir/fil.html~~

http://proxy.USPTO.gov/moc/nozama/www/^dir/fil.html". If the URL refers to binary content such as graphical images, the default remote server name is prefixed unmodified so the request will bypass the proxy.